

Grant Guidelines for Applicants

Introduction

The Burdett Trust for Nursing is an independent charitable trust that makes grants to support nurse-led¹ projects focused on supporting the nursing contribution to healthcare. The Trust aims to use its funds to empower nurses and through this to make significant improvements to the patient care environment.

Covid-19 - Supporting resilience in the Nursing workforce

The Covid-19 pandemic is presenting unprecedented challenges for the Nursing workforce. It is producing fresh stimuli to examine working practices and service redesign. It is also threatening their mental health and well being. Evidence-informed strategies and interventions are required to demonstrate nurses leading changes to clinical practice and service delivery. Separate proposals are also required to describe evidence-based support for nurse's mental health and psychological well being, both in the immediate and long term.

Nurses have been at the forefront of responding rapidly and safely to the challenges posed by the impact of Covid-19. Some of the responses have seen a step change in moving niche ideas and projects forward, so that large scale and sustainable change has been implemented. This has given nurses the opportunity to implement significantly different improvements to the care of patients and support for communities.

Nurses are working long hours on the front line in hospital and social care settings in the most extreme of circumstances. An already-depleted nursing workforce is struggling to cope with the increase in the amount and intensity of its work. Nurses are adjusting to larger numbers of critically ill patients, many of whom are deteriorating more rapidly than is usual, and isolation protocols mean they are frequently standing in for family members. They are also beginning to support some patients that are developing potential long term problems as a result of Covid-19. They are experiencing unprecedented levels of stress and anxiety, with many reporting moral and ethical distress due to treatment decisions and extreme discomfort and exhaustion from working long shifts in full PPE. Although nurses have been offered counselling and online therapy, the onus has been on nurses themselves to seek out support and it is unlikely to be sufficient to meet the considerable needs.

¹ Where the term nurse is used in this document it includes midwives, health visitors and allied health professionals

The Burdett Trust seeks to recognise and support nurses who as a result of the pandemic now seek to use the evidence and experience they have gained recently, to take forward their learning. This should demonstrate innovative and sustainable change and in particular showcase areas where technology has made both effective and efficient changes for both patients/clients and nurses. In addition, the Trust believes that nurses deserve an investment in their mental health and wellbeing in view of the exemplary and selfless services they have provided during the pandemic. It believes that supporting nurses psychologically in the short and longer-term is essential at a time when occupational stress levels are so high. The Trust recognises that strong and supportive leadership is crucial to ensure that nurses' mental health needs are a top priority and avoid a post pandemic generation of 'burnt out' nurses, further exacerbating staff shortages.

The Burdett Trust is interested in receiving nurse led proposals for evidence-based strategies and interventions which demonstrate innovative and sustainable changes to clinical practice and service redesign, as a result of learning gained through the pandemic. It also wishes to receive proposals aimed at tackling the mental health and well being of nurses. The Trust recognises that nursing is part of a workforce team and evidence submitted as part of proposals should reference that.

The Trust is keen to receive proposals that reflect a wide range of settings in particular those that are out of hospital and which cover both prevention and care in both health and social care. The programme looks to recognise and support nurses in a "new normal" world where our collective learning has led to real improvements for us all.

Please note that this programme **will not** support personal study.

Projects **must be nurse-led** and have the nursing contribution to healthcare at their core. Proposals must be well-argued and demonstrate why the project is needed, what benefits and impacts it will deliver and how it will generate learning that can be shared, disseminated, and adopted more widely.

Eligibility

Grant applications are invited from charities, non-profit organisations and public bodies that wish to undertake innovative projects to strengthen nursing leadership. Projects must be nurse-led and demonstrate an innovative approach. Grant applications are invited from charities, non-profit organisations and public bodies. The programme is not designed to support projects developed and undertaken by individuals and cannot award grants to private sector organisations.

Applicant organisations must be:

- properly constituted bodies in the public or voluntary/charity sectors; or
- a university or other charitable educational body that provides health-related education, training or research and development.

The Trust will not fund salary costs, posts, services or direct care costs that are regarded as the core funding responsibilities or statutory responsibility of Government or a public body. However, the additional cost of locum cover, staff to provide training, support, research and development, or to undertake project management or evaluation, which are an integral part of the project proposal and would not otherwise be funded by the applicant organisation, may be included in an application for funding.

Funding & Awards

Grants awarded within this programme will be between £20,000 and £100,000.

Terms and Conditions

- Projects are likely to be completed within a twelve-month period.
- Projects that exceed six months in duration will be required to submit periodic monitoring reports to the Trust, the timing of which will be project-specific and agreed with successful applicants as part of the approval process.
- Grant payments will be staged and may be withheld if projects do not progress as approved.
- Applications for projects with a significant educational element will be required to demonstrate evidence of a strong service-academic partnership.
- A final report will be required from all projects.
- The Trust will not fund projects that are part of established improvement programmes or projects which are already funded by other bodies.
- The Trust will not fund projects concerned with the statutory elements of staff transfer or the mandatory retraining or orientation of staff to new organisations.
- Applicants are advised that project proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis to ensure that funds are used to support projects that best meet the Trust's objectives.
- **Please note** in addition to their own plans for dissemination and knowledge transfer, successful applicants will be expected to contribute to a half-day conference/seminar in Central London to share learning with other grant recipients and publicise the outcomes of the programme.

What will Trustees look for in applications?

Trustees anticipate a large number of project proposals. The Trustees aim to fund projects that:

- are innovative, offering new ways to strengthen and improve nursing leadership and multi-agency collaboration
- provide evidence of direct user and patient involvement and the co-production of self-care solutions;
- will generate learning or new practices that can be shared with others and which have the potential to be disseminated and adopted more widely;
- will promote collaborative working among health and social care professionals, and partnerships within and across organisations;
- have the support and backing of key stakeholders;
- have sound arrangements for project management and monitoring, and robust plans for evaluation;
- are succinct, well-argued and demonstrate clearly why the project is needed and what benefits it will deliver.

Application Process and Deadlines

The Trust recognises that developing grant applications is time consuming and can result in disappointment. To minimise the burden on applicants the application process has been designed to be as user-friendly as possible, using online application technology. Applicants are advised to download the questions in advance and prepare their answers carefully before attempting to complete the application form online. All applications will be acknowledged, and applicants will be contacted during the assessment process to answer any questions relating to their application.

Applicants must download a copy of Burdett Trust's Grant Contract prior to making an application to ensure their organisation can agree to its terms in the event of a grant being offered.

Applicants are ***strongly advised*** to apply well ahead of the deadline: **midnight, 12 September 2020**
Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within four months of the closing date.

Please note: Trustees' decisions are final. No correspondence will be entered into in relation to them.

Data Protection Act 2018

To comply with this Act, we require your consent to use personal data supplied by you in the processing and review of your grant application. This includes transfer to and use by such individuals and organisations as the Trust deems appropriate. The Trust requires your further assurance that personal data about any other individual is supplied to the Trust with his/her consent. Submitting a proposal to the Trust confirms this consent and assurance.